Issue of visas to Foreign Tourists

3223. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for issuing visa after a person lands in India;

(b) if so, whether the Home and External Affairs Ministries have opposed this proposal;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for opposing it; and

(d) whether it will be extended to certain selected countries or to all the countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Proposal for issue of visa on arrival was considered earlier but not found feasible due to legal, administrative, infrastructural and security constraints. However, this issue is being re-examined.

Overseas Publicity Budget

3224. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(c) the percentage of budget of Tourism Ministry spent on publicity abroad and maintaining offices there; and

(d) the manner in which the remaining percentage of the budget is spent and how it helps Government in developing tourism in the country particularly in Bihar and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) During 2000-2001, 37% of the Plan Budget of the Department of Tourism is to be spent on publicity abroad and 55% of the Non-Plan Budget is to be spent on maintenance of these offices.

(b) The remaining Budget is spent on Central Financial Assistance to State Governments, human resource development, interest subsidy to hotels, domestic promotion, production of literature and publicity